



Volume 25

An ARCEC Monthly Publication

April 2016

Counterpoise Editor - Sue Robins AF6LJ

April Meeting Highlights

By Sue Robins AF6LJ Pictures by Patrick Gooden

Bob Boehme W2IRI gave a wonderful presentation on low cost test equipment which included a number of homebrew items. Bob had power meters, scopes, basic spectrum analyzers and low cost multimeters. Bob not provided a extensive display of these instruments but described where to obtain them. Most came from places in China, however the venerable Harbor Freight multimeter was mentioned. In his arsenal of test gear were several kits obtainable from various places including E-Bay, among others. This goes to show it is possible to put together a quite capable test bench on a shoe string budget, a inckel and dime at a time. .



Bob also brought handouts which included valuable information including resistor color codes DB to microvolts and other useful conversion tables and formulas. There was also a several page handout on toroids and their characteristics. More homebrew goodness brought to by your fellow ARCEC members.



Sources of Kits and Parts

Amazon.com	Ebay.com
Banggood.com	QRPlabs.com
Kitsandparts.com	N3ZI Kits
You Kits	QRPme.com
QRPARCI.org	Harbor Freight
Fry's Electronics	
Midnight Design Solutions	
KB9YIG Soft Rock Radio Kits	
Danssmallpartsandkits.net	

My New Ham Perspective

By Patrick Gooden. edited by Sue Robins AF6LJ

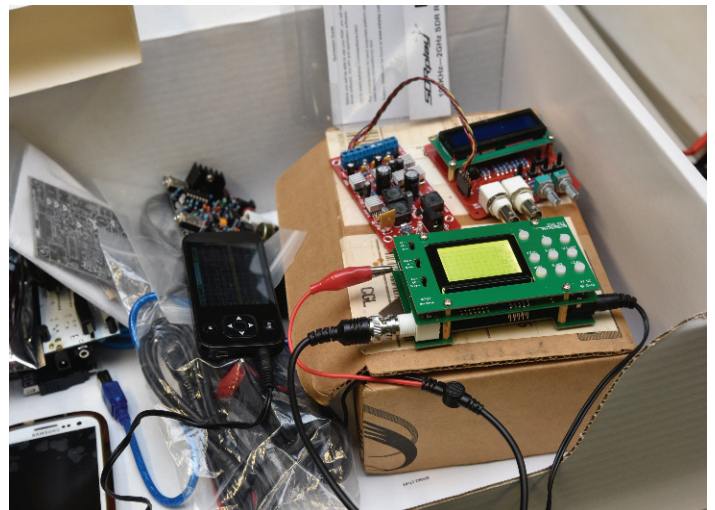
Amateur Radio, so I am told, is reported to be an area where operators come in all sizes, heights, and complexions sharing the same desire to learn and to be a part a community that is willing to help others. It is my opinion that it is more than a theory, but a statement of fact. This is one hobby that gives the ordinary a chance to excel, chime in with questions, take the answers, and excite an interest to do more.

My name is Patrick Gooden and I have just realized a 53 year dream of becoming an Amateur Radio Operator. It appeared that a lot of life's interference got in the way prior to the decision to finally take the step to become licensed. I studied the ARRL training guide, watched online YouTube videos, and downloaded test apps to gauge where I was in the preparation for taking the exam. The biggest push came when I received an email from Rob Freeburn, ARES Training Coordinator, with an invitation to participate in the ARES Gateway Communicator Workshop in January of 2016. Following that training, he and other Amateur Radio Operators present encouraged me to sign up for the February 27 Cram Day Exam that would be held in Lakeside. I went online and followed the steps necessary to register.

Following the exam, Rob encouraged me to seek out the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, as well as other clubs, and join the community. After, receiving my Ticket (in the ULS database) on February 29, I sought out the website WA6BGS and registered online. My first meeting left me with a positive impression like I had experienced, at the ARES workshop. I was (as now) encouraged by the presence of young people who were in attendance. Equally, I was impressed by the presentation given the young man Daniel and his desire to bring in his friend to share the experience of Amateur Radio.

I am struck by the wealth of knowledge in and around the organization, and the members selfless desire to pass that information on. The endless possibilities that exist in this hobby, as demonstrated by this past meeting presentation, and the tools that can be had relatively cheap.

I want to recognize Mark and Dave with their radio communication encouragements and the members who have shown considerable warmth in welcoming me to the club.



Some of the tools I am impressed by are pictured above.

ARCEC Repeater Frequencies

2 Meter Repeater	220 MHZ Repeater	440 MHZ Repeater
TX 146.475	TX 222.480	TX 440.900
RX 147.420	RX 224.080	RX 445.900
Offset .945	Offset 1.6	Offset 5.00
PL 107.2	PL 107.2	PL 107.2

Fry's Operating Day

April 30th San Diego Six Shooters and Fry's Electronics held the Fry's Electronics Operating Day Event. The event is intended to expose the public to amateur radio to the general public. Operating Day is held twice a year, once in the Spring, and once in the Autumn. This years Spring event was a bit soggy, and turnout was low. Nonetheless the turnout was still good.

In the morning we had a few light showers, which did not stop any of the amateur radio attendees from getting set up and into an operational mode. Several ARCEC members were on hand to assist in getting our station on the air which consisted of our tower trailer and Pat's Ultimate Go Kit-2. We were a little hamstrung a bit with rotor problems and the wind. It was decided to keep the tower below 40'. With those issues working against us Pat was still able to make contacts, among which was a contact to Indonesia on 20 meter phone.

After Noon the weather did clear up a bit, we even saw the sun for a while. Through most of the event the folks over at the 440 Hangout were serving up free hot dogs. In spite of the weather the event was a success, and makes a good dry run in preparation for Field Day in June.





2016 Field Day

June 25th - 26th Setup June 25th Stay tuned for more details.



A New Resource

Recently Mark KB6PJU and Terry K6TRY had some tree trimming done by one of the local tree trimming services. As often happens the question regarding all that wire and stuff in the air came up. It was explained they are amateur radio operators. Another question came up in their conversation, that being can their bucket truck be used for hanging wire antennas and the like? Well it turns out this company will for a reasonable cost lend the services of their bucket truck for the purpose of minor antenna work. Mark and Terry thought it would be good to pass this information along. And there you have it another very useful service made available to us amateur radio operators. There is a cost involved, however I am told it is reasonable.



Next Month's Meeting

Pat WA6MHZ will do a program on the 1947 DXpedition to Africa by Hallicrafters

Swap Meet Listings

The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon has a Swap Meet listing page on our website and here in Counterpoise, Have something you want to buy, sell, or trade list it with us. See <http://wa6bgs.us/swapmeetlegal.html> for more listings and posting guidelines. This is a free service to our members.

This Month's Listing

Joe:W6VMX - I have a dual band Yaesu FT-7900R (2m & 440) mobile radio for sale. In great cosmetic and operating condition. It comes with original box, microphone, all mounting parts, power cable, and operator's manual. Also has the YSK 7800 separation kit and I am including the programming cable and software from RT Systems. Priced at \$200.00 FIRM. Contact Joe Bennett at: w6vmx@rocketmail.com to make purchase arrangements.



Membership Badges & Pins

All members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon who might wish to obtain a membership badge can contact Dell Awards and place an order with them. They are our current preferred source for these badges, and have our logo and design on file and ready to create a custom badge for members. Current price is \$7.50 per badge and they have indicated that there is normally a 3 business day turnaround time. These are quality badges made by a long established company, so place yours on order soon. They can be reached at the below address and phone number, and be sure to mention you saw this blurb in the Counterpoise newsletter too.

Dell Awards
7949 Broadway
Lemon Grove, CA 91945
(619) 469-2100
Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30am-5:30pm
Sat 10am-1pm
Sun - Closed

Club Pins Now Available:

They have arrived! A limited number of club pins are now here and can be obtained from our Treasurer at most club functions. These are 1" diameter pins with a rubber clutch pin on rear. You can now show the world your support of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, and for the small cost of \$3.00 each too. Get them while they are available.



The San Diego Morse Code Practice Group

Mark KB6PJU has been conducting a code practice group on the WA6BGS VHF repeater. The code practice Group meets at 7:00 PM Pacific time on Tuesdays, and Fridays. If you want to learn Mores Code, hone your skills, and improve your speed the San Diego Morse Code Practice Group is for you.

You can discuss the San Diego Morse Code Practice Group here;

<http://www.arrl.org/forum/topics/view/1536>

And here;

<https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/new-2-meter-repeater-cw-teaching-method-developed.492738/>

Our Tower Trailer Needs A New Home

The current storage location for the club's antenna tower will not be available very soon. The club is looking for a volunteer willing to store the tower trailer. The new location must be secure, and 24 hour access is highly desired. If anyone wants to volunteer to store the trailer, or, has any suggestions on where to store the antenna trailer, please contact any officer or board member.



INTERNATIONAL STYLE ON-FOOT T-HUNT

Saturday May 21st. 2016

Lake Murray Community Park, 7051 Murray Park Dr. San Diego, 92119

Sponsored by the San Diego T-Hunt Group & CQ Magazine World Wide Fox Hunting Weekend

Starting times will be 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at 5 minute intervals. If you start at 2:00 you will have until 3:30 to complete the course. **NO REGISTRATION FEES!** There will be 5 hidden T's using the MOE-MOI-MOS-MOH-MO5 format. You will be issued a "Punch card" and there will be orange & white flagging tape at each punch located close to the T's which will be concealed. Antennas will all be vertically polarized with approximately the same radiated power from each "T". For information on "International Style Transmitter Hunting" you may go to Joe Moell, k0ov's excellent website..... www.homingin.com/intlfox.html We will have limited equipment for loan for those that do not have small 2-M beams. Bring a connector to go from your HT antenna connector to a BNC cable. There will be experienced Hams present to demonstrate techniques for those that want to learn about "On-Foot" Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ADRF) and a "Practice T" to experiment with before you start the course. You do not need a Ham Radio License to participate! You will be issued a map of the area with major features delineated. A compass, clipboard and pencil may be handy to plot bearings with. Dress appropriately as it may be hot or cold. Plan on taking water with you while hunting. There are several restrooms/porta-potties in the area for your use.

A BBQ is planned for about 3:00 PM for those interested. We will have burgers & hot dogs, buns, condiments, potato salad, drinks, chips & salsa. BBQ donations can be made on site. For information contact :

Joe Corones, N6SZO @ H-858.484.3582, C-858.603.5545, jcorones@gmail.com OR... ..
Joe Loughlin, KE6PHB @ H-619.461.7845, C-619.403.3149, ke6phb@cox.net

Directions: From Interstate-8 take College Ave. north about a mile to Navajo Rd. and turn right. Follow Navajo for about 1 ¼ mile and turn right on Park Ridge Blvd. Follow Park Ridge about ¾ mile until you come to Murray Park Dr. and turn left. The park will be about ¼ mile on your right. Look for signs/banner for T-Hunting towards the back of the park by the Tot-Lot. Coordinates are 32-47'-30.78" N & 117-02'-43.96" W.

COME OUT AND EXPERIENCE A DIFFERENT ASPECT OF HAM RADIO





The **AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF EL CAJON**^{Inc.}
WA6BGS

Post Office Box Fifty, El Cajon California 92022

Founded 1960 ~ Incorporated 1976

Please fill out this form and then see options at bottom for submitting to the club

Date of application: ___ / ___ / ___

Amount Paid: \$ _____ Cash Check Check # _____

Membership Type: Individual (\$20/year) Family* (\$35/year)

Membership Status: New Renewal Returning Member

Call Sign First Name _____ Last Name _____

If a previous member, what was your WAMO number?

ARRL Member: Yes No

License Class: Technician General Extra Other

Email Address (required) _____

Phone Number (optional) _____

**Use another sheet of paper to add Family members and please include the following information:*

First Name, Last Name, Call Sign (if any), License Class, Wamo Number (if any), & Email Address.

Submitting this form:

To submit this form, you can mail it to:

**Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon
P.O. Box 50
El Cajon, CA 92022**

-OR-

Bring it to the next club meeting on the second Thursday of each month. You can find the date and location by getting online at www.wa6bgs.us which is the club website. Check it out for the most current information regarding the club.

Cash Payments - Get a receipt from the Club Treasurer. Please make all checks payable to AMATEUR RADIO CLUB of EL CAJON, Incorporated. Receipts for payments by check will be sent by email or regular mail by the Club Treasurer.

Members with an FCC Call Sign are full members with voting privileges. Members without an FCC Call Sign are Associate members without voting privileges.

YOUR DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE: Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, Inc. Is a 501 C 7 Corporation. Donations are NOT tax deductible.

Email address and phone number are to allow club officers to contact members regarding club business and information of interest.